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OR TRANSMISSION THROUGH THE MAILS AT SECOND CLASS RATES.

PUCK BUILDING, Cor. Houston & Mulberry Sts.

Saturday

REMEMBER

AN OUTSIDE ALLY.

Good Brother Preacher, the sick and poor Shall be glad of the alms that you procure When Hospital Sunday again draws nigh; DE ALLY.

And I will wait outside the gate,

And remind the neighbor who passes by.

Puck.



PUCK,
PUBLISHED 8V8RY WEDNESDAY,
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PUCK BUILDING,

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Wednesday, December 21st, 1887. - No. 563.

Puck this week contains 18 pages.

CARTOONS AND COMMENTS.

WITHIN THE last fortnight we have seen a radical change in the character and condition of American politics. A few weeks ago there were two parties and no issue. To-day there is an issue, and it divides the two parties. This extraordinary change is the work of one man, and is the effect of a deliverance that is at once bold and simple. The President of the United States has, in fulfillment of his constitutional duty, informed Congress that the one important duty before the country is the provision for a permanent reduction of the enormous surplus which is growing, year by year and day by day, from the unnecessary taxation of American citizens; and that the way to reduce this surplus is to reduce its least necessary source of supply — the customs revenue. This seems a simple thing enough, yet it is the boldest step that has been taken in our politics since the issuing of the Emancipation Proclamation. The President of the United States, who must, by virtue of his position, be assumed to represent the party that elected him, has frankly declared his opinion that our protective tariff is a bad thing for the country. His party must support him in the stand that he has taken, or accept the alternative: disown his sentiments, and find a new leader.

The acceptance of this one fact puts all party politics on a new basis. Between this time and the beginning of the next presidential campaign, the Democratic party may make its choice. But its choice will make it either a Free trade or a Protection party, and it will matter very little to anybody that it once had the name of "Democrat" on its door-plate. Whether Democrats like it or dislike it, they are obliged, by the necessity of the situation, to enroll themselves as Free Traders or as Protectionists, and nobody will care much what opinions they hold on other subjects. There may be more important issues before the people—we think, ourselves, that the elimination of partisan influence from government business is a matter of even greater weight—but certainly, this issue being once fairly raised, its immediate importance must be clear to every man. The men who think they are gainers by our protective system and the men who think they would be gainers under a system of free trade are at once arrayed against each other, with a fight before them that must be fought out; that may not be shirked or postponed or compromised. Whatever be the outcome, it is begun, and it must be brought to an end.

President Cleveland has done a great thing—great in its simplicity; great in its boldness. Two weeks ago neither of the two great parties knew what to say for itself. To-day, every man in those two parties must find out for himself where he stands, and must reason out for himself the practical application of a great economic principle. The division between men that is thus made is not a division upon party lines. In the next campaign there will be two parties that will not be, whatever they may call themselves, the two parties that fought out the political contest of 1884. If "agressive personality" counts for anything with the American people, they will follow the lead of the man who has shown the people a great work to be done that their representatives have hitherto shirked.

We wish to enter our protest against the misuse of poor old Christmas. Year after year, we do more and more to spoil the wholesome old holiday, that once was welcomed by all who observed it; that now has well-nigh become an annual nuisance—and all because of our own snobbishness. In our dealings with Christmas we are having much the same sort of experience that people in small provincial cities have with their "Shakspere Societies" and "Reading Clubs." What that is we may learn from thousands of people, all over the country. The club or society, or whatever it may be, meets for the first time at Mrs. Brown's house. After the intellectual labors of the evening are over, the company is invited to a modest repast of tea and cake—sponge-cake, as a rule. The next meeting takes place at Mrs. Green's. At the close of the evening there is a little spread of tea and cake, and, perhaps, a few sandwiches. Next week, at Mrs. Smith's, there are tea and cake and sand-

wiches, and a bowl of salad. And when her turn comes, Mrs. Jones adds cold chicken; and so it goes on until Mrs. Snooks, whose husband is the richest man in town, gives a splendid supper, with game and pate de fois gras and bouillon and terrapin and boned turkey and champagne, and everything, in short that money can buy. And then Mrs. Hobbs, whose husband has much trouble to keep himself and his family decently clothed, finds herself called upon to entertain her friends after the fashion set by her millionaire neighbor.

When it gets to this point in the small provincial city, there is always a revolt. The people who are not well off in this world's goods get together and resolve—very sensibly—that there shall be no more Shakspere Society, no more Reading Club, unless a limit is put to the expense of entertainment. And when the club or the society meets again, the hostess provides a statutory supper, so to speak, of humble sandwiches, inexpensive sponge-cake, and the common Hyson tea of innocent sociability.

This is quite as it should be. Poor Mrs. Hobbs need no longer be put to shame by the contrast between her own poverty and Mrs. Snooks's wealth. And if Mrs. Snooks is consumed with a devouring hunger and thirst for game suppers and champagne, she may indulge her fancies in privacy. And the meetings of the Shakspere Society become once more occasions of rational social enjoyment. Now, it seems to us, the time has come for just such a revolt against the wild extravagance of our present celebration of Christmas. There is no use in denying the truth, we have all of us, great and small, fallen into a foolish fashion of giving more than we can afford, and giving it in foolish ways. We spend, as a nation, hundreds of thousands of dollars every year upon worthless toys, which we exchange—yes, that is the word—with children young and old.

In our fathers' time, Christmas was indeed a time for making merry—a time for family meetings, for cheerful gatherings. The children were remembered: they received little gifts, such as made them happy, and robbed no one's purse. But the gift-giving has now grown to be a mania; we give not only to the children but to adult friends and relatives, and they, if they would not be considered mean and ungrateful, must give to us. And as there is no real need of all this giving, it follows that we give useless things. There is, in fact, a regular trade in trifles—costly trifles—manufactured simply to meet the want thus created; and we have the spectacle of a rational human being giving his rational human friend—of the other sex—a dollar's worth of candy in a bonbon box that costs twenty-five dollars. To the rich, this may be a pleasing sport. To the poor; to those of moderate means, it can only be a burden and an anxiety. When will the time come when we shall make an end of this vulgarity, and treat Christmas sensibly and fairly? There is much pleasure to be had out of the season; why should we make it a time to be looked forward to with dislike and dread. If we go on as we are going, the day may come when we shall have to pass Christmas by unregarded.



PROUD OF HIS FINANCIAL STUPIDITY.



IN AN ART GALLERY.

R. CLUBMAN (who knows all about it). - This Verboeckhoven is simply

MR. KNOBSTICK (who wishes he did know all about it) .- It does

seem rather-er-well, really, not quite up to the mark, you know. Мк. Сцивман.— Why, it is vile, my dear fellow; positively vile. The veriest tyro in art ought to see that!

MR. KNOBSTICK .- Oh, yes, indeed!

Mr. Clubman. - Now, this little canvas is not so bad!

Mr. Knobstick .- So very natural, you know.

MR. CLUBMAN (patronizingly) .- Natural, my dear boy, but not

Mr. Knobstick.— Oh, possibly, possibly!
Mr. Clubman.—You never really saw grass and sky look like that

grass and sky. MR. KNOBSTICK .- Now that you speak of it, I am not sure that I

have, you know. MR. CLUBMAN .- Of course you have n't; the picture has delicacy

and finish, but fidelity to nature - Bah!

MR. KNOBSTICK.— I quite agree with you. This is a rather odd bit.
MR. CLUBMAN.—Very odd; the lights, though, are managed very — yes, really, very well.

Mr. Knobstick.— It quite takes my fancy.

Mr. Clubman.— Oh, it is a very faulty canvas otherwise — full of

glaring errors.

Mr. Knobstick.-Oh, here is a Gérôme!

Mr. CLUBMAN.—Yes, not at his best; a fairish composition only. I tell you, my dear boy, the majority of paintings are overrated - there is nothing in them.

Miss Facetious. - What 's this? - "After the Ball!" She looks as if she were sorry she went.

Young Mr. Funnyman (her escort). - Oh, no; she's sorry she came home so soon. Miss Facetious.—What an uncomfortable attitude - and she 's

rumpling her dress awfully!

Young Mr. Funnyman. - Oh, well, she does n't mind that, you

know; it's the end of the season.

Miss Facetious.— Here's "A Misty Morning in Rome!"

Young Mr. Funnyman.— I call that a regular London fog

Miss Facetious.-Yes, indeed! Do let us go on; it will take the curl out of my feathers.

Miss Penelope (a young woman with catalogue and magnifying glass "doing" the collection).— Look at the detail of that woman's dress. Is n't it wonderful?

ADMIRING FEMALE FRIEND. - Wonderful!

Miss Penelope (after a few moments' absorbing contemplation).— Kæmmerer paints deliciously!

Admiring Female Friend.—Exquisitely!

Miss Penelope.—Will you look at this perspective—the depth of it? - why, it is superb!

Admiring Female Friend. - Oh, is n't it?

MISS PENELOPE. - Marvelous! marvelous!! The picture as a whole, though, lacks sentiment.

Admiring Female Friend.—Yes, I think so.

Miss Penelope (pettishly). - Look at those stupid people standing so close to that Fortuny!

Admiring Female Friend. - Such ignorance!

MISS PENELOPE.—Why, it 's a perfect daub near by!
Admiring Female Friend.— Of course!
MISS PENELOPE.— Oh, here 's another Bierstadt!

ADMIRING FEMALE FRIEND.—Oh, yes; how very fine!

Miss Penelope.—Ye-es; but his pictures are so very similar—all painted from the same recipe.

Admiring Female Friend.—That may be so.

MRS. HOPELESS (before a Detaille) .- This is quite pretty, Mabel;

a sort of battle-scene, is n't it?

Mabel (her daughter).— It seems to be, Mama.

Mrs. Hopeless.—Who did it?

MABEL (reading name on frame). - It's some unpronounceable name French, I think, Mama.

Mrs. Hopeless .- Oh, never mind, my dear. I really don't care. I don't like so many figures in a picture, anyhow; it 's too confusing.

FIRST ARTIST (who manufactures pictures by the dozen for dealers), — Good gracious, man; look at those flesh tints!

SECOND ARTIST (who does the same) .- Frightful - mixed with putty, I should say!

FIRST ARTIST. - Horrible, horrible! I can't see how a painter can let such work leave his easel.

SECOND ARTIST .- Nor I. But the so-called great artist is not apt to be the conscientious one.

FIRST ARTIST.—True, indeed! This Troyon here lacks detail.

Second Artist.—Oh, yes—and breadth!
First Artist.—Do look at the gaping crowd before that huge canvas over there!

Second Artist .- I see. That 's what discourages true art - the utwant of discrimination in the public.

FIRST ARTIST. - Oh, give it size and color and it is satisfied. Second Artist .- Look at this landscape - the critics laud it to the

FIRST ARTIST.—Where it ought to be — it is a mass of faults. SECOND ARTIST .- A wretched composition throughout.

FIRST ARTIST. - And here - this outrageous chaos of color. Second Artist .- My dear fellow, that was intended to hang in an unlighted gallery.

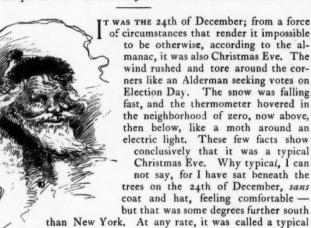
FIRST ARTIST.— Altogether a miserable collection.

SECOND ARTIST.—Yes—let's go; why did n't the fellow, with his money, buy something worth showing?

Philip H. Welch.

A CHRISTMAS STORY OF 1887.

As Compared with the Ordinary Mendacious Christmas Tale.



Christmas Eve. Inside his private office sat John Smith, the millionaire leather-dealer of the "Swamp," poring over his accounts. It was seven o'clock, and all the clerks had gone home, leaving the proprietor alone. By the way, did you ever meet a man by the name of Ebenezer Scrooge? Of course not; nobody else ever did, either—but John Smith? You know lots of Johnsmiths. A man does not need to have a name like a rusty saw to be mean. From this you will infer that Mr. John Smith was mean; so he was - this particular one. The amalgamated meanness of Scrooge and Marley did not begin to compare with the close-fistedness of this Johnsmith; conse-

quently he was rich. I am not mean, neither are you; but are we rich? Such subjects are painful on Christmas Eve — we will go on with the story.

Outside the office three small gamins were engaged in pelting an equally small girl with snowballs; suddenly they stopped.

"Say, Jinny," cried one of the sterner sex: "try de ole man on de Santy Claus racket!" and they hid in the darkness of a doorway.

The little girl crept to the door, tried the knob and entered. Oh, how warm it was! I merely introduce the last phrase to convince people that this is a genuine Christmas story. A slight cough roused the capitalist, and, looking up, he saw a red, pinched little face gazing wistfully at him. (The redness of the face was due to the application of snow in the hands of the small boy.)
"Well?" (the millionaire was impatient, as three cents were unac-

counted on the balance sheet.)

"Please, sir," and the little voice grew plaintive in its question:
"are you Santa Claus?"
"Bah!" said Scrooge (I mean John Smith): "humbug!"
"Please, sir," and the little questioner grew

earnest: "won't yer gimme a quarter?"

The bearded capitalist arose. "Get!" he shouted, and pointed to to the doorway.

Obedient to the command, the little figure got—outside the door, and, regaining her companions the tale was told, and they got —what?

Fifteen minutes later the three cents had been found, the safe-door closed, and the merchant, well wrapped in his ulster, stepped outside the door. Whizz-whizz-bang - four

snowballs flew with unerring aim at the face and high hat of Mr. John Smith. "Get!" cried four voices; and

the snow-covered, angry capitalist picked up his hat and got as fast as his legs could carry him.

This, dear reader, is a realistic Christmas story, a Christmas of today, of the year eighteen hundred and eighty-seven.

AT WEST POINT.

INSTRUCTOR .- Give the rule for approximate calculation of horizontal distance.

PLEBE (from New York City, confidently) .- Twenty blocks to the

REWARDED.

"Why, how is this, Mr. Beat? I hear you 've got the nerve to go around telling people that you're doing a bet-ter business than you ever did before; and yet you know you have n't paid me a cent of rent in the past six months."
"Well, I think that's

doing pretty well. You 're the first man I 've struck who 'd let me get into him more than three weeks. That 's the reason I'm making such a long stay with you."

ROPE MANUFACTURERS can only see the bright side of anarchy.

THE SEMI - OCCASIONAL churchgoer is known by the way he holds up a hymn book.



CHANGE ABOUT IS FAIR PLAY.

BLIND (?) BEGGAR.—Since that darned Animal Cruelty S'ciety has got so popular, this is the only way I can fake a decent living.

THE OWL AGAIN.

" | WANT a pair of smoked glasses!" The optician with a scowl:
"What do you want with them, prithee,
You musty dyspeptic owl?"

> "I want them," replied his owlship, With a look of great surprise, And a smile upon his features: "For the benefit of my eyes!"

> > "For your eyes?" said the vexed optician: "That's delicious, anyway!" Said the owl: "You know full well, sir, I can not see by day;

> > > "And I want smoked glasses, simply, To wear upon every flight-Because I'm an owl from Boston, In search of beauty and light!"

R. K. M.

BRIGHAM YOUNG'S oldest son is rich, but has only three wives. He appears to have been more successful in business than in love.

WHEN A YOUNG LADY and an old gentleman are partners at whist, it is difficult to say which is the greater sufferer.

> A TON OF DIAMONDS is worth thirty million dollars. Don't let the dealers come the eighteenhundred-pound dodge on you.

THE BIRD KNEW.

The Western Union telegraph operator who told the following story should take a position with one of the New York papers and talk up

its circulation:
"I was out hunting the other day, and I saw a fine woodpecker on a tree; and just as I raised my gun to shoot, it rapped on the tree 'stop.' I lowered my gun in as-tonishment, and the bird began to rap again; and, with the precision of an old operator, it told me not to spend my time tramping through the woods in search of pleasure, but to go home and buy Pickings FROM Puck, only twenty-five cents."



AT THE CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME.

Mr. Postleigh.—What agility and grace, Genevieve! It

makes me think of our young days.

Mrs. Postleigh.—Why, William, I never did such a thing in my life!

THE COUNTRY SEXTON.

MOST EVERY MAN, no matter what his walk in life may be, has some sympathy from his neighbors. doctor is unconsciously sympathized with when people tell him how hard it must be to arise at two o'clock on a winter morning and go forth in a hailstorm to minister to the sufferings of a patient several miles off.

And as with the doctor, so it is with the clergyman, and the night editor, and the man who thrusts his head into the lion's mouth daily, for so much

But no one has yet seen fit to express the opinion

a week.

that the lot of the country sexton is a hard and trying Every one who has any business connection with the church owns He has to saw wood for the rector, and beat carpets for the vestrymen, and do odd jobs around the places of any other members of the congregation who may see fit to call upon him.

If he goes out on the street for an airing, he is apt to be met and snapped up by some old lady who has just moved and would like to have the shades of the old house cut down to fit the windows of the new one. If he is going to the city for recreation, he is sure to be met before

he reaches the railroad station, and ordered to make a church-pew cushion for the settle of somebody's new Dutch house. And no matter what the poor sexton may have on hand, he has smilingly to abandon it, to perform anything that is asked of him. He is generally what is known as a handy man and a stand-by, and

fying and beautiful in the rector himself. If the sexton wants to take a drink, he has to do it down in his cellar. He is afraid to go into a public drinking place, for fear he may meet some church dignitary there who will

report him.

He has to be very circumspect in all his ways. If any one hits him, he can not hit back, because he must reflect the sentiments and teachings of the clergyman, and, in short, practice what the clergyman preaches. Consequently, through the teachings of the clergy-man, the sexton becomes a paragon of virtue which the clergyman himself would do well to follow.

But, in spite of all his humility and goodness, he is never regarded according to his real worth. He never receives the credit of having any patience, although he gives up his entire life to the church, and is ever ready to do anything that is required. He has to mend the cushions, sweep the church, and have a perfect knowledge of all the feasts and ember days. He must know whether it is the first Sunday in Advent, or the third Sunday after Easter, be able to define the functions of an archdeacon, and move a

piano upstairs without waxing profane when his fingers are flattened out like those of a pair of new kid gloves against the wainscoting.

When his children are baptized, he can not select the hour himself, or decide whether it is to be done in public or private. It is all decided by the clergyman, who may prefer quiet simplicity or full dress.

The sexton always has to attend service regularly, and appear to be

deeply interested, even if he is thinking of rabbit hunting or foot-ball at the time. In fact, he is obliged to appreciate each sermon so keenly, that to look at him you would suppose that he himself was the author of it.

He has to go forth to the wood and cut X-mas trees, about this time; and a little later wear out all his clothing against the church walls, as he lies against them on his wish-bone, while adjusting the emerald decorations of the season

And he has to see that the church is warm, even when the furnace won't work. Let him get a cough, even during the regular season of the Palestine cough, and he will not be sent to the Holy Land to mend his shattered health. He gets no slippers delieately embroidered with rose and heliotrope about X-mas time, and no cough troche firm pays him to write it a complimentary letter to be printed as an advertisement. In fact, he is never treated the same as the rector except when his salary is allowed

to go past due.

The only thing that can be said against the country sexton is that he prevaricates, and breaks engagements. He promises to split your wood on Monday, and does n't come around for a week. He says, when he sees you, that he had to do some other job for some one else, and that he was in arrears with his work. You can never find him except at the church, and that is generally on Sunday, when you can't start him to work on the spot. A country sexton, to be happy, should be deaf, and live on an island in the middle of a swamp that is not soft enough to sail a boat in, and not hard enough to walk on. He should reach his house by a bridge that could be drawn into the front door after him, and used inside as a staircase.

"WOMAN FEELS where man thinks," says a writer. Yes, that's why man is bald.

"Now, MR. JAWLEY," said the mother, "you must look at Clarence. He's the sweetest, dearest tiny tootsy thing you ever saw, if he is teething. There, now, tell me candidly, is n't that a fine baby?" "Yes 'm," said the old bachelor: "it's a very fine baby. Gimme a forequarter and about half a dozen French chops."

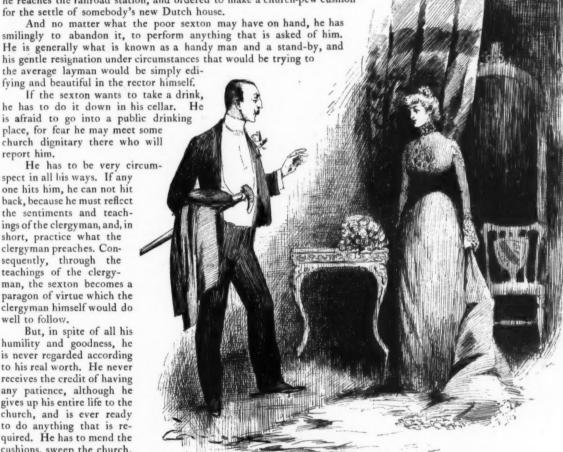
COTTON-TAILS would not be a bad title for a book of plantation stories.

THE ANCIENTS Were n't a bad lot at heart. Cicero could write Latin with fluency all day long. But he never struck an R. at the beginning of his compositions and made five cents' worth of hydrate of suthin' and three cents' worth of bisulphide of suthin' else cost a dollar-and-ahalf in a glass bottle with a pink label.

CHARLES DICKENS, thinks that Niagara Falls is "a place of abject terror." So it is. We have counted a hundred bridal couples there in a single day.

THE VASSAR COLLEGE Cheer should end with "yum-yum-yum!"

WHEN A church sewing society meets at a member's house, the session soon develops into an Englishspeaking race.



HOW SHOULD WE LIKE IT THIS WAY?

MR. DENSUADE (before the Opera) .- Are n't you going? Mrs. Densuade.— Certainly. Why not? Mr. Densuade.— You 're not dressed!

Mrs. Densuade. - Excuse me. According to the tenets of the satirical press, I am!

HER MISSION.

Now CALLS the wife of the rector In twilight's pensive hush, And her voice is the kind of music That flows from the bloom-hid thrush,

She speaks of the latest etchings, Likewise of the latest books, Bric-à-brac and turquoise china, While a smile lights all her looks.

When ceases her gush of music She turns like a bird to flee,
While dropping a hint for a "fiver"
To trim the X-mas tree.





H, MY ULSTER'S a friend I can never forget!

I have worn it some six or eight years;

It's as good as the first day I

purchased it yet—
It extends from my heels to
my ears.
It has al ays been eight or ten
sizes too large,

And it seems like a ton's

Weight to lift, But, oh, it 's a joy when I fall o'er the marge Of a big able-bodied snow-drift!

It 's about a foot thick, is this cosy old gown,
And when by its great belt I 'm begirt,
On the slippery walk I can tumble me down
Without once being fractured or hurt;
In some places it 's yellow, in others it 's red—

Soon the rainbow will in it be found —
Oh, it makes a fine spread to be thrown on the bed,
And it makes a fine bed for the hound!

Oh, the blizzard may warble its bitterest song,
But I care not how bitter it blows;
And no terrors to any big cold wave belong
When I button it up 'round my nose.
It 's as downy and soft as a turtle-dove's nest
On the limb of a blooming plum tree,
And no four-button cutaway, trousers or vest
Do I need when it 's swaddled 'round me!

All the buttons stay on as though fastened with nails,
And the rain through it never can ooze;
It's as proof against tears as it is against gales,
And it covers the breaks in my shoes.
I am sure it will be my companion life-long,
And I know that as onward I wend
I can daily burst forth in this beautiful song:
"I've at least got one constant warm friend."

Some citizens think that
Most should have no following. We think he should
have a large following—of
his companions straight to
jail.

"SIR," SAID Mr. Rebelflag, addressing the Genial Proprietor at the fifty-cent table-d'-hôte: "we have been too kind to the South, that is the difficulty. I have always been opposed to extending the right hand of fellowship to our Southern brother until all this sectional feeling should have died out."

THE TRAMP never seeks a vacancy. He has a vacancy of his own, and it takes about all his time to keep it filled.

It is the matutinal angler who appreciates the fact that the early worm catches the fish.

ALL is not gold that pays a quarter's dividends and collects two years' assessments.

A FEW WEALTHY CHINAMEN are trying to control the laundry business of a far western city, we are told by an exchange. It should be called an Ah Sindicate.



TOO REALISTIC.

CATESBY (who has kindly consented to serve as Santa Claus, and who, to hrighten the illusion, has been hung in the chimney).

— Blest if that fool Brown ain't balled up the arrangements, and lighted the yule log ten minutes ahead of time!

CHORUS OF ANARCHISTS.

We shall miss you, we shall miss you much; We shall miss your blustering boast; But when the real bomb-throwing comes Then we shan't miss you, Most.

WHAT BOTHERS the average woman just at present is to find a suitable X-mas present for two dollars that will look as though it cost five.

THESE "cold waves" must be a boon to the inhabitants of New Jersey. They can leave their doors and windows wide open all night without fear of tramps.

THE HOLE into which the late General Boulanger retired appears to be sodded over.

The anguish of martyrdom bound to enhance, The patriot O'Brien goes to bed in his pance.

THE FIFTH AVENUE stageline has sunk pretty low in the social scale; but there is one chance left for it yet. It can do a little coachingclub caper, and hire Mrs. Langtry and Mrs. Potter to ride on the box-seat.

MANY AN ACTRESS can say that her face powder is her fortune,



R. K. M.

CHEERFULLY GIVEN INFORMATION.

MRS. GORETON (taking her constitutional in the Park).— Can you direct me to the Bolivar statue?

Sparrow Officer.— I'm not long on th' foorce, leddy, an' I don't know over-much about shtatues; but if it's bolivars yez want, I t'ink yez'll find thim at th' restorator bechune th' bir-rd-cage an' th' arshenal.

THE CONTRIBUTOR who scarcely hopes that his MS. will prove available usually has good judgement.

The ADAGE, "It takes a thief to catch a thief," is not highly complimentary to the detective.

MAUD.—Alfred, what does that Wall Street man, D'Algonquin, mean when he speaks of "covering his shorts?"

ALFRED. — Oh, he only means he's wearing his last winter's overcoat over his last summer's tennis blazer.

THERE IS A manufacturing company down town that seems to succeed, in spite of the fact that its name is Dennis,

Two or our greatest chessplayers are going to play a match game. The one who draws the last match to "set it up" to the crowd.

South america has an umbrella bird. It must be famous for flying away and not returning.



COMMUNICATED.

FAIRFIELD, Conn.

P. T. Barnum, Esq.,—
Dear Sir: We have a large soiled Asiatic elephant visiting us now, which we suspect belongs to you. His skin is a misfit, and he keeps moving his trunk from side to side, nervously. If you have missed an elephant answering to this description, please come up and take him away, as we have no use for him. An elephant on a place so small as ours is

more of a trouble than a convenience.

I have endeavored to frighten him away, but he does not seem at all timid, and my wife and I, assisted by our hired man, tried to push him out of the yard, but our efforts were unavailing. He has made our home his own now, for some days, and he has become quite de trop.

We do not mind him so much in the day-time, for he then basks mostly on the lawn and plays with the children, (to whom he has greatly endeared himself,) but at night he comes up and lays his head on our piazza, and his deep and stertorous breathing keeps my wife awake.

I feel as though I were entitled to some compensation for his keep. He is a large though not fastidious eater, and he has destroyed some of my plants by treading on them; and he also leaned against our woodhouse. My neighbor — who is something of a wag — says I have a lien on his trunk for the amount of his board; but that, of course, is only

Your immediate attention will oblige

SO IT IS.

SHE.—John, what is a coastwise steamer? HE .- One that knows how to keep off the rocks, darling.

CRUMPLED ROSE LEAVES.

DRY GOODS CLERK (to fellow clerk) .- Timmy, you remember I told you of a desperate flirtation I had with a beautiful girl at Saratoga, when I was on my vacation?

TIMMY.—Yes, chappie.

DRY Goods Clerk.—She was in here to-day, and bought some dress goods.

TIMMY. - What did she have to say?

DRY GOODS CLERK .- She asked me if the goods would wash; that 's all.



WE DON'T know why, but champagne-cider always suggests to us a Sunday-school superintendent in a facetious mood.

THE WHEREABOUTS of one Henry George is becoming a matter of some comment; but there is no uneasiness felt.

THE LATE Mr. Liszt was said to be almost a second Josef Hofman.

THE PRESIDENT of the French Republic gets a salary of one hundred and twenty thousand dollars, plus fifty thousand dollars for living ex-The job is worth it.

"Now is the time," said the tramp, as he let the cover of the bin down over him for the night, "to lay in coal."

IT IS UNDERSTOOD that M. Sadi-Carnot is still pinching himself to find out whether it is a dream or not.

WHEN SHALL We see the Devil again? Next fall.

IN QUITMAN, GA., a drunken negro resisted arrest. The policeman hit him on the head with a club, and in an instant the negro's wool was all ablaze. Since this item was published, Col. Ochiltree has been a lawabiding citizen.

"IN KRIS KRINGLE WE TRUST."

When Blivins came home late on Christmas Eve, He saw, while around he was sloshing, Some eight pairs of hose by the mantel-piece hung, And growled at the family washing.
When the meaning came to him, he sighed, "It's too late," And stood for a moment quite humbled; Then his pocket-book, empty, he hung by the grate -And straight into bed he tumbled.



IN FRONT OF LACY'S WINDOW.

DEACON BILES (on a visit). - It's th' darndest thing ever you see, Marthy. Wait 'll Wash't'n crossin' th' dec'lation of Ind'pendince comes raound agin, 'n I 'll git daown 'n boost you 'n Eben up!





THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS -- SANTA CLAUS.—This is getting to be too extravagant for me



ISTMAS — AN UNNECESSARY CALL.

UNDER THE MISTLETOE.



A DOWN THE oaken staircase She comes with dainty tread, In satin gown of quaintest cut, With frosty lace o'erspread-And a green bough of mistletoe Hangs just above her head.

Her white throat rises stately From out its snowy bed, Her tender eyes are downcast, Her lips are ruby red-And a green bough of mistletoe Hangs o'er her golden head.

Her slippered foot's soft patter, Her ankle so well bred, Set my poor heart all a flutter; Her ire I do not dread I only see the mistletoe That hangs above her head.

I clasp her close and kiss her, Not caring what is said, For the truth is, if you 'd know it, We are already wed— But then, a bough of mistletoe Hangs just above her head.



THE MARCH OF SCIENCE.

"Are you interested in the newest discoveries in Science and the in-

ventive arts?" asked Mr. Knowall of Miss De Pork, a Chicago girl.
"Oh, yes, indeed!" she replied enthusiastically: "I am so interested in everything of that sort. Why, do you know that when my Papa first went into the pork business he had to kill all his pigs by hand, one at a time; and it was dreadful tiresome, sticking three or four hundred in a day. But now he has machines that simplify and beautify the work so that they kill and scald and scrape and cut up thousands in a day at his pork-packing parlors, as you would say in Boston; and the work is done beautifully. You must go with me and see it some day; it 's just lovely!"



AT THE CREDITORS' MEETING.

BANKRUPT .- Gentlemen, I must throw myself on your clemency. If two pin-cushions and an embroidered hat-tip are any use to you, take them. I attended the Masonic Fair recently!

THE WORST CRIME OF ALL.

"We had a tough time getting him away from the mob," said one of the officers, as they dragged their bruised and tattered prisoner into the station house and slammed the door in the face of the infuriated throng that surged against the railings and clamored loudly for vengeance.
"Kill him! Lynch him! Get a rope!" yelled the people; and then

the policemen charged upon them with drawn clubs, and they sullenly

dispersed.

"It's lucky we came along in time," continued the officer who had made the arrest, as he gazed sadly at a huge rent in his uniform: "another made the arrest, as he gazed sadly at a huge rent in his uniform: "another made the life clubbed out of him: and I don't minute and they would have had the life clubbed out of him; and I don't

blame them, either, for a man who'd do what he did would rob a church."
"What's the charge?" asked the sergeant as the trembling, pallid culprit was arraigned in front of him.

"Dropping Philadelphia papers in one of them hospital boxes," was

MUGGERS'S PLACE.



Muggers is one of those cast-iron foundry fiends who will insist on decorating their grounds with examples of their production

FRIEND (who has been invited to pass the night) .- Pleasant little place, my boy; but is n't it a trifle near that grave-yard?

IN THE MATTER of the X-MAS PUCK.

WE ARE very sorry to learn that many of our regular readers have been unable to get their Christmas Puck. It is not our fault, however, that this has happened. We gave the amplest notice to the newsdealers; we gave them clearly to understand that the Christmas Puck was the regular edition for December 14th, and we printed double our usual edition to meet the extra demand.

WE ARE sorry to learn that some of the newsdealers did not order enough copies to meet the increased demand. But that is, after all, rather their interment than ours. The entire edition of the Christmas Puck was sold out within three days, and we can supply no more copies.

to meet the increased demand. But that is, and any ours. The entire edition of the Christmas Puck was sold out within three days, and we can supply no more copies.

WE SHALL take care that this does not happen again. If it is possible, we shall print enough Midsummer Pucks and Christmas Pucks hereafter to supply any call, however negligent the newsdealers may be. But the preparation of such an elaborate publication is an affair of many months, and we can only work our presses to their utmost limit.

WE REGRET that this rapid consumption of our whole edition has left many would-be solvers of our \$500 prize puzzle out in the cold. We can only suggest that they purchase the GERMAN EDITION of Puck, Dec. 14th, 1887, which contains the puzzle and the blank. We will receive the slip cut from the GERMAN PUCK as a substitute for that of the X-MAS PUCK. We make this announcement in order to give our friends every chance to compete for the prize.

WE ARE glad that you liked the X-MAS PUCK as much as you evidently did, and that you showed your liking by buying the whole edition out, almost before it was dry.

NEXT TIME we will try to have enough to satisfy you all.

The Publishers of Puck.

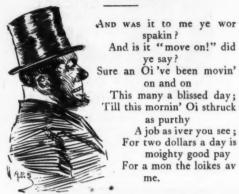
Now just a few more words to you about the Christmas puzzle. We have received letters from some of you asking what sort of people they are whose portraits are to be identified, and letters telling its that some of you have found more than thirty. To the first class we will say this much: that the portraits are those of distinguished and well-known people, artists, statesmen, politicians, actors and the like, some living, some dead — but all of them people of whom every one has heard, and most of whom have had their portraits, neatly labeled, set forth from time to time in Puck.

To the second class we can only say this: that while there are more than thirty faces in the puzzle, there are only thirty portraits.

faces in the puzzle, there are only thirty portraits.

If any other distinguished individuals, living or dead, have surreptitiously hidden their portraits in our puzzle, we are pained to hear it, and powerless to put them out, now. Those of you who are sharp enough to find any such intruders and to identify them, will probably be sharp enough to select the correct thirty.

PAT'S REMEDY.



'T was up Broadway Oi' was walkin' Wid me t'roat choaked loike wid a sob, Whin a mon up a stairway shouted:
"Whist, Pat, do you want a job?" And theer sthood Misther Murphy The mason, as big as loife; And "Pat," says he, "Oi 've a job for ye To aern bread for the childer and wife."

Sure an' Oi was that deloighted, Oi t'ought Oi could walk on air; 'T was but takin' a dainty box av bricks Up an ilegant tenement stair; And Oi wint to work wid as loight a heart As iver a mon could wish, For 't was cheering to me, for sure don't you see That I had to cut bait or fish.

Oi'd hardly commenced me labor, Whin one av the dirtiest bums Comes up to me: "are ye wid us?" says he.
"Oi'll be wid ye whin pay-day comes."
"Oi mane, have ye joined the Union?"
"And is it the 'Union' ye say? And sure and Oi joined that same in me moind Whin Oi came to America."

Thin he wint to Misther Murphy As sthraight as sthraight could be, And that gintleman came over And spoke very koind to me. "You'd betther join thim, Pat," he said, But me heart grew heavy as lead, For Oi'd not the extint of a single cint For the divils that sthole me bread.

So Oi dhropped that dhirthy brick-hod And came down the ugly stair Wid me hopes all dead, and wid bended head, And me heart filled wid grief and care; And Oi 've been all this mornin' thinkin' What we poor folks could do, do ye see, To bate the shirks that shut up the works To the loikes av you and me.

And Oi 've just made up me moind, sorr, That the purtiest thing we could do Is to give thim a sup av that same bad cup, Sure, Oi think that 's the best, don't you? So we'll form a saycret ordther, That is, me friends and me, And ivery mon that dares to join won We'll Boycott him, don't ye see? M. L. Murdock, Per L.

THE MAN WITH THE IRON JAW - Chauncey M.

SLAP JACKS - Sullivan and Ashton.

A STATIONARY TUB - pretty nearly - The Dolphin.

CHANGE FOR A DOLLAR -A Counterfeit.

A Nother of Puck's E. C's, Wide Awake -The Baby at Midnight.

TWO LUNCHEONS.

THE MILLIONAIRE'S (an Alumnus). HE ORDERED a sandwich made of cheese, In a restaurant quite plain; Yet the viands there all seemed to please, For he sought it out again.

THE Son's (an Undergraduate; \$1,200 a year). After oysters, he ordered a bird, And wines of vintage old and rare; The bill for the lunch was quite absurd, But the Sophomore paid in "air."

The Consequences.

Those simple lunches managed to save Enough thousands to meet the swell lunch bills,

Beside the care of a single grave In the family lot - which the Sophomore fills.

Clarence Stetson.

BOOKS THAT HAVE HELPED ME.

Why has not Mr. E. P. Roe contributed an article to this valuable series? We take the liberty of supplying the omission, and respectfully submit the following list:

"The Opening of a Chestnut-Burr;"

"Barriers Burned Away;"
"He Fell in Love with His Wife;"
"The Earth Trembled;"
"His Sombre Rivals;" "Nature's Serial Story;" "Success with Small Fruits;" Webster's Dictionary;

Roget's Thesaurus; Murray's Grammar; and

OTHER PEOPLES' CHECK-BOOKS,



PRESENCE OF MIND.

Spielberger (who came in late Christmas Eve, and forgot the stocking business).—
Vot I ged you, mine leedle son? Ha! I gif you dot nise drompet you hef daig sooch goot care ohf since der lasd Grisdmas. You pe goot poy dis year, unt you ged him again nexd years!

I played to him - I touched the keys With love in each caressing finger; My touch was lighter than the breeze; And I was proud to see him linger.

He lingered while I softly played An aria from "Trovatore;"
He lingered while I, stumbling, made A poor attempt at Siegfried's story.

I played him Wagner and Gounod; I played him Bach; I played him Handel; I played him Offenbach—but, no— The game was hardly worth the candle.

His mind, it seemed, had idly strayed—
Through realms of bliss a happy roamer—
For, when I paused, he only said:
Well, that piano is a "Sohmer!"

PICKINGS FROM PUCK.

The Fourth Crop of PICKINGS FROM PUCK has just been harvested and is now offered for sale. It is a sure cure for the blues and all forms of low spirits whether caused by blighted love or sluggish liver. Be sure to obtain a supply of these pickings of the best things from PUCK, which may be had of any news-dealer.— Yonkers Gazette.

"MANCHESTER ALUM WORKS, S.M. 22nd, 1886 .- As the largest "MANCHESTER ALUM WORKS, S'M. 22nd, 1886.—As the largest Manufacturers in our line in the world, and constant inventors ourselves, we very much admire your BALL-POINTED PENS, and we consider it certain that ultimately they will displace all other commercial pens. The box you sent us (No. 546) contains just the kind we wanted, and it is quite charming to listen to the quillike music it makes while running after and keeping up with our thoughts.—P. SPENCE & SONS."

CALIFORNIA EXCURSIONS.

At regular intervals during the Fall and Winter months the Chicago and Northwestern Railway will sell excursion tickets to San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego and other California points at very low rates for the round trip. Such tickets will be good to return six months from date of sale. For full particulars address E. P. Wilson, General Passenger Agent, Chicago, Ill.

NO CHRISTMAS OR NEW YEAR'S TABLE should be without a bottle of Angostura Bitters, the wo renowned appetizer of exquisite flavor. Be sure to get the genui article, manufactured only by Dr. J. G. B. Siegert & Sons.



New York. December 21st, 1887.

K. Reader, Esq. - Dear Sir:

You are hereby informed that PICKINGS FROM PUCK, 4th Crop, has been out for some days, and that what is left of the edition is better than the three previous crop

put together, which is a very large say to say.

You are also informed that "Sassiety," No. 6 of Puck's Library, is out, and that it offers a fund of humor unparalleled in the chronicles of giddy fashion.

The price of PICKINGS FROM PLCK is 25 cents; of Sassiety" 10 cents; or you can have both together at the unprecedented reduction of 35 cents.

Very truly yours,

KEPPLER & SCHWARZMANN. Publishers.

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Professor Darwin is not the only one who has been STRUCK by the likeness which many men bear to monkeys. Imitation seems to be the strongest point of similarity, and many men, like their prototype, imitate very readily, while they lack the power to ORIGINATE.





UNLIKE THE IMITATIONS, IT HAS NEVER CLAIMED TO CURE ALL HUMAN ILLS, BUT



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King of Table Waters.

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General Office: 18 Vesey St., New York City.



Scribner's Magazine for December is one of the most remarkable productions of its kind we have seen for years. It is a monthly magazine; it is published in New York, and yet a person might read it from cover to cover, including the advertisements, and not find out there had ever been a civil war in this country .- Exchange.

HERE is a chance for the walking delegate to earn honest wages. A Boston paper contains this

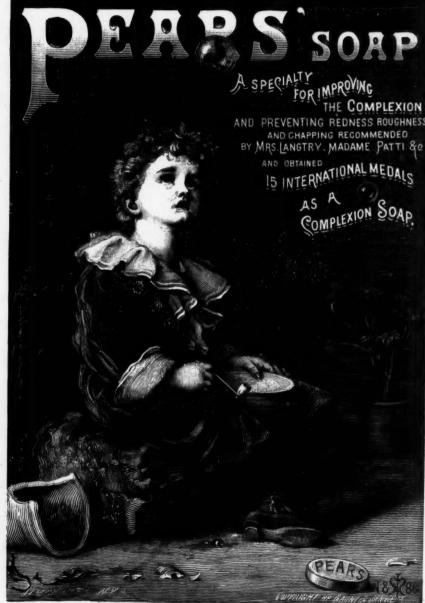
advertisement:
"Wanted—A person to take a dog to walk mornings. The best of reference required." -Elmira Advertiser.

"SHALL we stick to the farm?" asks a rural exchange. You will be likely to in wet weather unless you pave it.—Omaha World.

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blood and perspiration of disease-sustaining elements, and thus removes the caste.

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In the Police Court the other day a witness returned such "queer" answers that the opposing counsel arose and said:
"Your Honor, I believe that man is evading

the truth!"
"Witness, you must answer all questions truth-

fully," admonished the Court.
"Yes, sir, I intend to; but give me a little time. I'm all out of practice, you know!"— Detroit Free Press.

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Ir Jay Gould visits Austria, the Emperor can do no less, in recognition of his merits, than make him a Knight of the Golden Fleece. As a fleecer, Jay has always been a great success.— Syracuse Herald.

A PERSON makes better time by going slow. It is generally the fast trains that are behind time: an accommodation always makes connections .-Ottawa Local News.

A NEW YORK woman's plan to exterminate the English sparrows is to get it made fashionable to wear them as hat ornaments. - Syracuse Herald.

THE "rubber trust" that is being organized in the East will probably be an elastic affair .--Chicago Evening Journal.

JOHN L. SULLIVAN has met the Prince of Wales. What became of the gate receipts is not known. - Rochester Post-Express.

M. FERRY has not been forgotten, like Gen. Boulanger. He has been shot at .- Providence Journal.

THE people of the Territory of Dakota believe in a future State. - Washington Critic.



For CATARRH, ASTHMA, CONSUMPTION.

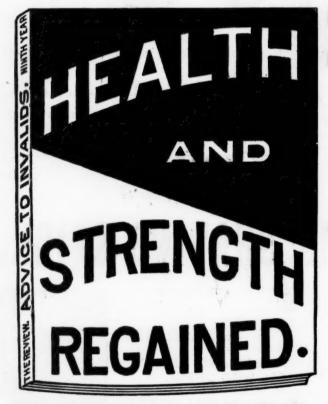


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The REVIEW exposes the frauds practiced by quacks and medical impostors who profess to "practice medicine," and points out the only safe, simple and effective road to health, or and bodily energy.

THE REVIEW exposes the frauds practiced by quacks and medical impostors who profess to "practice medicine," and points out the only safe, simple and effective road to health, vigor and bodily energy.

Beware of the sham curative articles called Shields, Generators, Girdles, Pads, Brushes, Corsets, Clothing, Plasters, etc., now deceptively advertised as Electric, Voltaic and Magnetic. These articles are as entirely spurious as the advertisements concerning them are insidious. This can be easily detected by a simple test which is fully explained in THE REVIEW.

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Reader, are you afflicted, and wish to recover the same degree of health, strength and energy experienced in former years? Do any of the following symptoms, or class of symptoms, meet your diseased condition? Are you suffering from ill-health in any of its many forms, consequent on a lingering, nervous, chronic or functional disease? Do you feel nervous, debilitated, fretful, tund, and lack the power of will and action? Are you subject to loss of memory, have spells of fainting, fullness of blood in the head, feel listless, moping, unfit for business or business or plassure, and subject to fits of melancholy? Are your kidneys, stomach, urinary organs, liver or blood in a disordered condition? Do you suffer from rheumatism, neuralgia or other aches or pains? Are you tunid, nervous and forgetful, with your mind continually dwelling on the subject? Have you lost confidence in yourself and energy for business or plains? Are you tunid, nervous and forgetful, with your mind continually dwelling on the subject? Have you lost confidence in yourself and energy for business pursuits? Are you subject to to restless nights, and other despondent symptoms? There are thousands of young men, middle-aged and old who suffer from nervous and physical deb

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TOKAY WINES.

What the Hungarian Trade Papers Say About Them.

Report of ARMIN VARNAI to the President of the "Tolcsva Association for Grape Culture and Wine Production." (Copied from the number of November 28th, 1886, of the Macyar Kereschock Lapja, or, the "Organ of the Hungarian Merchants.")

stedeck Lapja, or, the "Organ of the Hungarian Merchanta")
". . . . We have to make mention of one laudable exception among the purchasers of genuine Tokay Wines, and this is the firm of A. HELLER & CO., in Buda-Pesth and New York. The aforenamed world-renowned house, as in former years, spares no efforts to secure the best and purest qualities right here in the valleys of the Tokay Mountains, regardless of the prices asked by the growers. The New York Franch of A. HELLER & CO. (A. Heller & Bro., 35 & 37 Broad Street, and 307 & 309 E. 54th Street), by the way, deserves great credit for having popularized on the other side of the Atlantic the judgment and acknowledgement for genuine Tokay Wines and Aszu, and at the same time opening a market for these articles in the New World . . ."

ZEMPLÉN, the Official Gazette of the Local Government of the Province of Zemplen, speaks on the same subject as follows:
"... The judgment for genuine Tokay Wines is in America more general than in the capital of Hungary. During a period of ten years not nearly as great a quantity of that noblest of wines has been shipped to Buda-Pesth, as the New York Branch of A. HELLER & CO. has imported yearly, and, what is more, they were exclusively of prime quality and mellow old age."

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The last annual official statistical showing of the pro-

The last annual official statistical showing of the product in Germany and Austria has just been received here.

According to this report, the output of the six leading breweries of Germany and Austria, in 1886, was the

| BARRELS. | BARRELS. | Spaten Brewery, Munich, (Gab. Sedlmayer, Prop.). | 368.017 | 2. Anton Dreher, Vienna. | 348.603 | 3. Löwen Brewery, Munich | .232.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.730 | .32.73

Total, 1,670,564.

There are innumerable small establishments, but these six larger ones serve to give some idea of the magnitude

of the industry in those countries. In the manufacture of the quantity of beer shown in the product of these six breweries, over one hundred and forty millions of pounds of malt were used.

To those of our own community who are not tinged with prohibitory theories there will be some satisfaction in learning that St. Louis, Mo., has not only the largest brewery in this country, but the largest in the world. The Anheuser-Busch Brewing Association, in the

The Anheuser Busch Brewing Association, in the period covered by the official report from which the above is taken, manufactured and sold 13,120,000 gallons of beer, equaling

410,000 Barrels,

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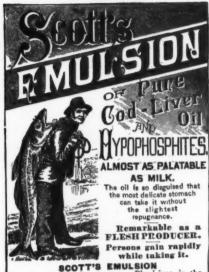
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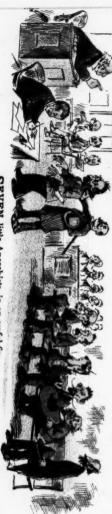
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